

between the administration and Chinese officials, resolutions passed in both the Senate and the House on Mr. Choephel's behalf, and a number of worldwide letter writing campaigns, he remains incarcerated in a remote corner of Tibet for a crime he did not commit.

The Chinese Government has never provided evidence to support their allegations that Mr. Choephel was sent by the Dalai Lama to gather intelligence and engage in separatist activities.

The State Department has no evidence that he participated in any illegal or political activity.

What is indisputable, however, is that Mr. Choephel traveled to Tibet with a donated video camera and recording equipment to document Tibetan music and dance—subjects he studied as a young man in India and as a Fulbright Scholar in Vermont.

The sixteen hours of footage that Mr. Choephel sent out of Tibet before his arrest affirm this fact. It simply shows the traditional dancing and singing that is an integral part of Tibet's rich cultural heritage.

I have spoken out many times about this tragic miscarriage of justice.

I have twice discussed my concerns with Chinese President Jiang, once in Beijing and again in Washington. I and other Members of Congress have written letter after letter to the Chinese Ambassador in Washington and other Chinese officials seeking information about Mr. Choephel's whereabouts and his well-being. I have tried to arrange meetings with Chinese authorities here, to no avail.

As we commemorate this sad anniversary, we know no more about Mr. Choephel's condition than we did 4 years ago.

His mother, who has repeatedly sought permission from the Chinese Government to visit her only child, has not given up. She continues her tireless campaign for his freedom on the streets of New Delhi.

I had hoped that Chinese authorities would have recognized by now the grave mistake they made in sentencing Mr. Choephel. International outrage over this case mounts with each additional year he spends in jail.

Congress, the administration, and the international community must continue to do whatever it can to ensure that next year at this time we are celebrating this young man's release, and the release of the many other political prisoners who are being unfairly detained in Tibet and China.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, September 14, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,657,645,658,855.66 (Five trillion, six hundred fifty-seven billion, six hundred forty-five million, six hundred

fifty-eight thousand, eight hundred fifty-five dollars and sixty-six cents).

One year ago, September 14, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,548,258,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred forty-eight billion, two hundred fifty-eight million).

Five years ago, September 14, 1994, the Federal debt stood at \$4,683,788,000,000 (Four trillion, six hundred eighty-three billion, seven hundred eighty-eight million).

Ten years ago, September 14, 1989, the Federal debt stood at \$2,849,710,000,000 (Two trillion, eight hundred forty-nine billion, seven hundred ten million).

Fifteen years ago, September 14, 1984, the Federal debt stood at \$1,572,267,000,000 (One trillion, five hundred seventy-two billion, two hundred sixty-seven million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,085,378,658,855.66 (Four trillion, eighty-five billion, three hundred seventy-eight million, six hundred fifty-eight thousand, eight hundred fifty-five dollars and sixty-six cents) during the past 15 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1883. An act to provide for the application of measures to foreign persons who transfer to Iran certain goods, services, or technology, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Speaker appoints the following Members as additional conferees in the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 900) to enhance competition in the financial services industry by providing a prudential framework for the affiliation of banks, securities firms, insurance companies, and other financial service providers and for other purposes; and appoints as additional conferees from the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, for consideration of section 101 of the Senate bill and section 101 of the House amendment:

Mr. KING is appointed in lieu of Mr. BACHUS.

Mr. ROYCE is appointed in lieu of Mr. CASTLE.

As additional conferees from the Committee on Commerce, for consideration of section 101 of the Senate bill and section 101 of the House amendment:

Mrs. WILSON is appointed in lieu of Mr. LARGENT.

Mr. FOSSELLA is appointed in lieu of Mr. BILBRAY.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 3 of Public Law 94-304 as amended by section 1 of Public

Law 99-7, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe to fill the existing vacancies thereon: Mr. PITTS of Pennsylvania, and upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader, Mr. FORBES of New York.

At 1:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House of Representative to the bill (S. 1059) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribed personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

At 5:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Berry, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2490) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-5157. A communication from the Executive Director, Commission to Assess the Organization of the Federal Government to Combat the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Combating Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction"; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-5158. A communication from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the budget request for fiscal year 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5159. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Market Segment Specialization Program Audit Techniques Guide-Sports Franchises", received September 10, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5160. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice 99-45, 1999 Section 43 Inflation Adjustment", received September 10, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5161. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, International Trade Administration,